MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche announced in London that Israel and Lebanon have already formulated "the greater part" of a draft agreement but that there is a growing danger that Syria and the PLO will try to thwart the chances of reaching an agreement, IDF Radio reported. Kimche also said that an agreement to strengthen the Lebanese Army in order to secure Israel's northern border is now under discussion and that Israel is trying to include in it the movement of civilians and trade as well as the establishment of a permanent liaison office in Beirut, according to Jerusalem radio.

A Lebanese Government source cited by Beirut radio complained that Israel has not yet given a decisive answer to the latest U.S. proposals, which "respond to the Lebanese demands." Noting that current discussions focus on security arrangements for the southern border zone, Voice of Lebanon radio said Lebanon proposed that three Army brigades be deployed to ensure security in the south. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that the United States has sent 74 military experts to train the Lebanese Army.

Syrian Commentary -- Syria will agree to anything Lebanon accepts, "provided this would safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and would fend off the dangers menacing Syria's security and the security of the entire Arab nation," TISHRIN announced in an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio. Contending that Israel will continue to insist on maintaining a direct military presence in Lebanon even if agreement is reached on the "so-called" withdrawal of foreign forces, TISHRIN said Syria warns against the conclusion of an agreement that would jeopardize its national security, undermine Lebanon's sovereignty, or bring about U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the region.

Israel

President-elect Hayim Herzon said he does not view his victory as a defeat for the Begin government and pledged to work for unity within the country, according to an interview with Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said he has no intention of initiating a crisis in the coalition in light of the "failure" in the Knesset, the radio later reported. He told confidants that he still believes the elections should be advanced, but added that this should be done only with the full agreement of all coalition components, the radio noted.

EEC Summit Resolution

EEC leaders reaffirmed their support for Palestinian self-determination, urged the prompt withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, and called on Israel to freeze the number of its settlements in the occupied territories, AFP reported citing a communique issued at the concluding session of the 25th EEC summit in Brussels. The communique noted that Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza are contrary to international law and constitute a "major and growing obstacle to peace efforts. The EEC leaders urged the PLO and Palestinian people to declare themselves in favor of negotiations and concluded that positions taken during the recent PNC session in Algiers "can and should contribute to the peace process."

PLO Affairs

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, criticized "pressure" placed on the PLO by Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, and Jordan in coordination with the United States to force it to authorize Jordan's

King Husayn to speak in the name of the Palestinians, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Hawatimah added that the Palestinian revolution cannot "stand idly by" in the face of this pressure, which ignores the will of the Palestinian people.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia must contemplate establishing relations with the Soviet Union, "but at the right time," Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz declared in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH carried by SPA. Asked whether his mediation mission between Iraq and Syria has failed, he said the mission will continue and noted that Saudi Arabia is currently working on "something important" in this connection. Viewing the possible outcome of the Iran-Iraq war, Prince 'Abdallah said Iran "cannot enter Baghdad because that would mean an all-out Arab war with Iran." The Iraqis are in any case "very strong," he said, and the war will remain limited to a border war of attrition until Iran changes its outlook.

The crown prince denied that Saudi authorities recently discovered and arrested members of an opposition military organization, saying that there has been no plot to overthrow the regime since King Faysal's reign and that recent arrests of drug smugglers have been deliberately misinterpreted. He also said reports of Shi'ite unrest in the eastern region are untrue and ascribed such stories to a "pyschological war" being waged against the Kingdom. Asked about the effect of the oil price cut, the crown prince said Saudi Arabia will reduce its pan-Arab financial commitments but will proceed with its 5-year development plan.

Syria

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Presidium Deputy Chairman Temirbek Koshoyev, Damascus radio reported.

Libya

A political statement issued by the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress denounced U.S. "terrorist provocations" against Libya, which took the form of mobilizing U.S. fleets near Libyan shores, and urged the Arab people and their organizations to "answer the U.S. intransigence," JANA reported.

Iraq

Muhammad Bakr al-Hakim, Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq spokesman, called on Iraqi Kurds not to be deceived by President Saddam Husayn's "new conspiracy" of granting a "false amnesty" to Kurdish draft evaders, according to a statement broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service. The Iranian-backed opposition leader said Iraqi Kurds have a great responsibility in promoting an Islamic revolution against Saddam Husayn's regime.

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced President Reagan's 21 March speech on "the day of solidarity with the people of Afghanistan" as a "vain propaganda outcry" and a "new hypocrisy," Kabul radio reported citing remarks to a BAKHTAR correspondent. The spokesman said it is clear that Reagan wants to encourage "counterrevolutionaries" to continue their "barbarous crimes" and undermine the "glorious victories" of the Afghan people and government.

Heavy fighting erupted in Paktia Province when a Soviet-Afghan convoy attempted to break a rebel siege of the strategic Barrai Fort near Pakistan's border town Miram Shah, AFP reported citing Afghan resistance sources. The sources said the rebels shot down one gunship as Soviet aircraft carried out "massive bombing," AFP added. In another development Afghan national airline president Sayed Baba was assassinated in Kabul on 19 March, according to AFP citing Western diplomatic sources.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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RESISTANCE REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING IN PAKTIA

BK230028 Hong Kong AFP in English 0018 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Islamabad, March 22 (AFP) -- Heavy fighting erupted in Afghanistan's troubled Paktia Province yesterday when a big Soviet-Afghan military convoy moved out of Khost town to try to break a Moslem rebel siege of strategic Barrai Fort close to Pakistan's border town Miram Shah, Afghan resistance sources said today.

The post, 7 km (3 miles) from Khost, was surrounded by Afghan rebels late last year. Western diplomatic sources earlier this month reported a massive troop concentration in Paktia prior to an offensive. Moslem resistance sources said the rebels shot down one gunship helicopter today as Soviet war planes continued massive bombing yesterday and today.

Paktia is considered a rebel stronghold where several thousand guerrillas are based. Rebel sources said the guerrillas had destroyed five tanks, three armoured vehicles and the convoy's advance had been stopped.

A total of 25 Afghan soldiers had joined the rebels with heavy weapons, the sources said. A total of 30 guerrillas had been injured since the fighting began, they added.

The sources feared that the fighting might escalate as Soviet-Afghan troops garrisoned at the provincial capital of Gardez were also planning to open the important Gardez-Khost road which is under rebel control and used as a guerrilla supply line.

KARMAL RELATIVE ASSASSINATED IN KABUL 19 MARCH

BK221253 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Islamabad, March 22 (AFP) -- The president of Ariana, the Afghan national airline, was assassinated in Kabul on March 19, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

They said Captain Sayed Baba, a relative of President Babrak Karmal, was shot as he was returning to his apartment in the Microrayon District, reserved for Soviet personnel and senior members of the Afghan regime. Other accounts said the shooting took place inside the apartment.

Authorities announced Captain Baba's death with no explanation, and he was buried Sunday.

But Western diplomatic sources said that Afghan authorities had deliberately circulated rumours that the captain had committed suicide or even that he had had a heart attack.

The sources advanced two main theories, either that the Moslem resistance had struck at one of the less protected members of the president's family, or that Captain Baba, a leading member of the Parcham faction, had been eliminated by the rival Khalq faction of the ruling communist party. A thrid possibility was that the captain had been shot by a vengeful Ariana employee, as the airline was about to sack people in a major restructuring programme.

FOREIGN MINISTRY CRITICIZES U.S. SOLIDARITY DAY

LD230016 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] In reply to a question by a BAKHTAR correspondent, the spokesman of the DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry said the following regarding yesterday's provocative and hypocritical speech by President Ronald Reagan:

Last year, Mr Reagan made a similar move with the enemies of the free-born people of Afghanistan, the democratic and national April Revolution, and the DRA. And by declaring 21 March as the so-called day of solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, he embarked on a new hypocrisy which in his view was very skillfully designed, although deceived no one.

By holding marches and glorious meetings last year, our people expressed their anger and repulsion against Reagan's spiteful and hostile action and decisively condemned it as blatant interference in the internal affairs of our free and independent country. Nevertheless, Mr Reagan once again decided to pursue this vain propaganda outcry by making a speech on the occasion of this so-called day and once again he tried in vain to (?show) himself as a friend of the people of Afghanistan.

It is clear why Mr Reagan is yet again repeating this futile game. Mr Reagan knows very well that the counterrevolutionaries, burdened by their inhumane and barbarous crimes, which are being committed on the direct instruction of international imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism in collaboration with Chinese hegemonism and reaction of the region, have been crushed. And the harsh blows of our Armed Forces, devout sarandoy, courageous revolution defense groups, and other devotees of the path of the victorious April Revolution have brought these bands, treacherous to the homeland and revolution, close to the brink of decisive, complete, and permanent elimination. Apart from this, Mr Reagan, of course, is not unaware of the fact that our country's millions of working people are increasingly siding with the National Fatherland Front, the body of tribal meetings and social organizations under PDPA leadership, and their firm unity offers no opportunity for the implementation of the plundering and aggressive plans of imperialism and its servants.

Thousands of our deceived compatriots who joined the counterrevolutionaries because of the hostile propaganda of imperialist and reactionary circles, after realizing the truth of the April Revolution and its lofty and humane objectives, particularly its new development stage, are joining the people and their national government and are siding with their working compatriots in revolutionary labor and struggle to usher in greater victories for the creation of a new society in the country.

So it is clear that Mr Reagan and his imperialist followers, by declaring such a day and waging a hostile propaganda outcry against the DRA in the name of so-called solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, on the one hand, want to encourage the remnants of the counterrevolutionaries, who are doomed to decisive defeat, to continue their barbarous crimes. On the other hand, they want to undermine the glorious victories of the people, party, and our revolutionary government.

Of course, Mr Reagan and his accomplices with their hypocritical display of such so-called solidarity want to see the blood of hundreds of our peaceful compatriots, whose hearts are full of love for the homeland and people, become the target of the poisonous arrows of Washington servants. However, not only our aware people but all the world very well knows that it is the result of U.S. money and wealth and the devilish plans of the Pentagon and the CIA that the blood of our young people is shed; that mosques, schools, religious centers, hospitals, and libraries are burned down; and that bridges, roads, power lines, and other public and private property are damaged.

Our religious people, Muslim people of the world, and the world public realize very well that each day the criminal hands of imperialism, in particular U.S. imperialism, are stained with the blood of thousands of patriots in Palestine, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Sabra and Shatila camps, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Namibia, Angola, and many other corners of the world.

Hence, Reagan and his followers by marking such a day can never hide their criminal and inhuman actions in our homeland and other parts of the world and thus deceive world public opinion.

The people and government of the proud, free, independent, and nonaligned country, the DRA, vigorously denounce this action by Ronald Reagan as another [word indistinct] wave of interference in the internal affairs of our sovereign country and regard it as contrary to all international laws and recognized international standards.

In reaffirming their pledge for the struggle against the counterrevolutionaries and their imperialist supporters, the noble people of revolutionary Afghanistan, who are making preparations to mark the fifth anniversary of the victory of the April Revolution, welcome this anniversary with indefatigable work for the construction of a new, prosperous, and proud society. Our people see very well the hostile and interfering objectives hidden behind such demagogic and self-interested so-called solidarity. They say no to these demagogues and they need no such so-called solidarity.

SOUTH ASIAN OFFICIALS TO MEET IN DHAKA 28-30 MAR

BK221401 Dhaka BSS In English 1150 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Dhaka, March 22, BSS -- The senior officials of seven South Asian nations will have their 4th meeting here on March 28-30 to prepare the ground for a foreign ministers conference to take decisions to launch a regional forum for cooperation.

The foreign secretaries of the South Asian countries had three meetings earlier since the forum for regional cooperation was first mooted by Bangladesh a few years ago and by now the proposal has acquired "an irreversible momentum."

The 3-day meeting in Dhaka will be participated by India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives besides the host country, Bangladesh. Earlier meetings were held in Colombo, Kathmandu and Islamabad.

The meetings have identified ten areas on cooperation including those of agriculture, rural development, health and population planning and Dhaka meeting will finalise and approve a programme for the consideration of the foreign ministers.

The Dhaka meeting at the secretary-level is expected to be the last before the foreign ministers of the region meet sometime between May and September this year to launch the forum with the adoption of an integrated programme of action.

ENVOY TO PRC ACCREDITED TO DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Mar 83 p 8

[Text] Government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr C.M. Murshei, at present ambassador of Bangladesh to China, as Bangladesh ambassador to Democratic Kampuchea, reports BSS.

AWAMI LEAGUE CALLS FOR END TO MARTIAL LAW

BK180754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] In Bangladesh, the Awami League has called for an end to martial law and restore normalcy in the country. Speaking at a meeting organized to celebrate the 63d birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka yesterday, the party chief, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, reiterated the demand for the release of political detainees in the country.

BRIEFS

JUTE FOR USSR -- Bangladesh is to export raw jute worth 100 million taka to the Soviet Union. A contract to this effect was signed between the two countries in Dhaka on 17 March. [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 21 Mar 83 BK]

GANDHI URGES VIGILANCE AGAINST DISRUPTIVE FORCES

BK221749 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The prime minister has called for extreme vigilance against disruptive forces and denounced the attempts to divide the people on communal, caste, and sectarian lines. Addressing the annual conference of the heads of central and state police and security organizations in New Delhi today, Mrs Gandhi emphasized that the more we succeed, the greater will be the challenges before us. Because of India's successes, there is adverse propaganda abroad by forces who are inimical to us. Some of this propaganda is also being repeated in India.

In this context, Mrs Gandhi referred to the criticism in some quarters of the recent nonaligned summit in New Delhi. She made it clear that India hosted the meeting not for the sake of its image but as her tribute to the strength of the Nonaligned Movement. The movement, she said, is important for us as it is trying to solve the basic problems of economic development of the poorer nations. Mrs Gandhi congratulated the security forces on their role in the summit's arrangement.

Talking specifically of the police force, Mrs Gandhi emphasized the need for strict enforcement of discipline. She warned the police authorities that inadequate action in dealing with social offenders, dacoits or other types of police inaction will not be accepted. Political interference cannot be an excuse for not taking action. She particularly denounced the tendency in some police officials to get involved by taking sides in communal, caste, and other disturbances. Senior police officials should do everything possible to eradicate corruption at the lowest level as it gives a bad name to the administration in general. She also underlined the role of the judiciary in assisting the forces of law and order in controlling crime and ensuring peace.

The prime minister said that she is considering whether the center cannot take a more active interest in setting things right in state police organizations by way of sending advisers or taking up retraining of state police officers. Mrs Gandhi also emphasized the need to rectify imbalances in the recruitment pattern so that more members of the minority communities are taken into the police forces. She is particularly keen that individuals are not posted on too sensitive areas where their functioning is likely to cause [word indistinct] tensions.

POLICE, STRIKING WORKERS CLASH IN NEW DELHI

BK231016 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 23 (AFP) -- Police fired to quell mob violence as workers began a 24-hour strike here early today in the state-run Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) to press for better working conditions.

Police said over 40 policemen were injured in stonethrowing by striking workers and most of them were hospitalised. Earlier, police used batons and teargas to disperse the mob which burnt down a DTC bus and a van and damaged two other vehicles, including a police jeep. It was not known if there were casualties in the police firing or baton charge. The violence was said to have started when non-striking workers at a DTC depot tried to take out busses but were resisted by the other side.

The strike, called by the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) affiliated to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, was fully effective.

CURFEW LIFTED IN TEZPUR; SITUATION 'QUIET'

BK221556 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] In Assam, curfew was lifted from Tezpur town and its adjoining areas this morning following an improvement in the situation. According to official sources, barring some stray cases of assault and intimidation, the overall situation in these areas remained quiet during the last 24 hours.

PUNJAB MINISTER URGES FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNALISM

BK221617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, has urged opposition parties to help strengthen secularism and fight communalism in the state. He was replying to discussion on the demand for grants for general administration and the police department in the assembly today.

The chief minister said the Akalis are complicating issues facing the state instead of solving them. He said it does not represent all the Sikhs but only those who believe in its political philosophy. He asked the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Management] Committee to clarify whether or not the Guru Nanak Niwas is a part of the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. He said if it is a part of the complex, then gross sacrilege has been committed by taking a dead body there a few days back, which was against the established tradition of Sikhism. Mr Darbara Singh reiterated that the government will firmly deal with those who try to disturb peace and harmony in the state. He thanked the prime minister for accepting the religious demands of the Sikhs and for assurance of an early solution of the problems facing the state.

AKALI DAL TO DECIDE 'SOON' ON PROPOSED TALKS

BK221439 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal has said that the party high command will decide soon about considering center's proposed invitation for talks on Akali demands. Talking to newsmen in Amritsar today, he said that there is no invitation from the center to the Akalis so far.

PRESS NOTE ISSUED ON SITUATION IN KARACHI

BK2217J2 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration this evening says the tribunal of enquiry set up to enquire into the circumstances of the recent sectarian clashes has started working. Justice (Nasir Aslam Zahed) today inspected the scene of the incident.

The press note says while the rest of the city remained normal, in Gulbahar area, one person was stabbed who later succumbed to his injuries in hospital. A motorcycle was set on fire. In the same area, lawless elements pelted stones on moving vehicles and also set fire to used tires. Fifteen persons were arrested, five of whom were in possession of illegal weapons.

Curfew timing in the Liaqatabad police station area has been further relaxed and tomorrow relaxation time will be from 0600 to 1000 and from 1600 to 1900.

The president told newsmen in Rawalpindi today that he is in touch with the administration of Karachi. He said he does not see anything that could develop into a problem. He pointed out that such happenings are usual in many countries of the world where certain elements attempt to destabilize the situation. He urged the people to remain united.

Curfew Relaxed in Liaqatabad

BK230813 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Curfew restrictions in Liaqatabad police station area of Karachi was relaxed for 4 hours this morning. No untoward incidents were reported during the period. Curfew restrictions will again be relaxed from 1600 to 1900 this afternoon.

SHI'ITE LEADER DESCRIBES SECTARIAN VIOLENCE

BK230402 Hong Kong AFP in English 0402 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Karachi, March 23 (AFP) -- Abbas Haider Abidi, a leader of the Shi'ite Moslem minority here, said Tuesday that nine Shi'ites and two members of the Sunni Moslem majority had been killed in sectarian violence here since last Friday.

The head of the Karachi Shi'ite council said Sunni "fanatics," unimpeded by official forces, had destroyed 11 of the minority sect's mosques and meeting halls and about 100 of their homes. Of 274 people arrested during the violence, not one was a Sunni, he said.

The spokesman for the Shi'ite council -- set up after the first bloody clashes between the two Moslem communities -- accused the government of "total partiality" in dealing with the troubles. The government's aim, he said, was "to perpetuate" martial law rule, which has been in force for seven years.

The authorities have clamped heavy censorship on local reports about the rioting. They have given a death toll of five but have made no mention of the pillaging of Shi'ite mosques.

A provincial government communique Tuesday said one person had been beaten to death in the Gulbahar District while roaming bands blocked traffic by setting fire to barricades made with automobile tires. Fifteen people, five of them armed, were arrested.

Informed sources said police in Gulbahar, on the northeastern outskirts of this port city, repeatedly used tear gas to break up crowds of demonstrators.

In Liaquatabad, to the west, residents were reportedly defying curfew orders but Army patrols were taking no action against them, the sources said.

REBEL LEADER WARNS AGAINST PRESENT VIOLENCE TREND

GF221357 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Mar 83 p 12

[Text] Peshawar, March 18 -- Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, 96-year-old Khudai Khidamatgar and Red Shirt leader, has once again warned against the present trend of violence in the politics and called upon the nation to forge unity in its ranks and sink petty differences to enable it to face the devastation.

Addressing various public gatherings at different places in Malakand Agency, where he is now-a-days on a meet-the-people tour, he said the problem of Afghanistan cannot be solved at gun point and the only way to its solution was mutual understanding among the parties concerned.

He said the people of the subcontinent faced the British rulers with the power of their unity. The negligent and lethargic nations, he said, had vanished leaving no mark of their existence on the earth.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan also warned the government against indulging in politics and backing certain political party to change the nature of country's politics. He said that several Afghan refugees had appealed to him to mediate for a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem.

Ghaffar Khan reiterated his earlier stand that he had no political designs nor did he want to create troubles for the government. He described lust for power as the cause of today's difficulties.

SOVIET CONSTRUCTION MINISTER DEPARTS KARACHI

BK221441 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The four-member Soviet delegation, led by the minister of maintenance and special construction work, Mr B.V. Bakin, has left Karachi for home at the end of a week-long visit to Pakistan.

LEADERS ADDRESS NATION ON PERSIAN NEW YEAR

Ayatollah Khomeyni

LD2107Z4 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0440 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni address to nation on occasion of Persian new year -- recorded, duration 8 minutes]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I beseech Almighty God to bless all the Muslims of the world, Iranian Muslims and especially the combative strata, families of martyrs, families of those disabled and their dependents, mobilization forces, all the military and civilian armed forces, the Guards Corps, and all the rest on the occasion of the new year. I hope that this year will be a good one for the Iranian nation, a year that will see us win victory. God willing, this year will bring victory to the oppressed people of the world, Muslims of the world.

For us and for the dear nation of Iran, it is necessary to thank God for all the riches He has bestowed on us. God has bestowed bountiful riches on all the world, riches beyond estimation. It is impossible to count the riches given to us by God Almighty. But, according to the saying, we should try as hard as we can. For example, He delivered us from cultural and ethical corruption and helped us attain high levels of ethics and culture. He helped us to overcome our egos, especially those of our youths which had been bloated to a great degree.

I hope that this spiritual achievement and self-discipline, this victory over the evil within, will be reached by one and all. We are swamped with God-given riches today and cannot give enough thanks for them. We thank Almighty God for having given us such a nation which is present on all fronts and on all scenes. We thank God for saving our youths and our women from the cesspools that had been prepared for them. Our youths, who were about to be lost to Islam and Muslims altogether, were returned to us by God, and their belief was strengthened to such a degree that they are now volunteering for martyrdom. On the warfronts, they shout God's name while fighting. They pray and meditate at night to their God. These are the blessings for which we should give thanks. Our women, some of whom were driven to incorrect ways -- and the situation was getting worse -- were saved by the grace of God and were delivered from the evils inflicted on them by the oppressors and the servants of oppression. Today, our women are showered by the riches given to them by God. They might not be aware of God's great gifts [words indistinct].

I hope that God Almighty will grant strength to this nation -- an oppressed nation, a nation opposed by all but a few nations in the world because of its belief in Islam -- and annihilate its enemies. I hope God grants prosperity to all on this festive day.

The point I would like to make is that the festivals observed by Muslims and Islam must be strictly observed by praying and mediation -- prayers, fasting, meditation. On this festive day -- which is a national day and not an Islamic holiday -- we are told in one of the traditions handed down to us that we should fast, meditate, and pray. This makes us understand that if a nation intends to follow the right path and to maintain its freedom and independence, it should remember God at all times, be they festive or nonfestive; it should pray to God, remember God, and work for God. Even on a day of festivity, the directive, the religious directive, is to fast -- to fast in order to cut one's self off from one's ego and to turn to God Almighty. This is because with every step we take toward victory, toward rebulding our country, we should take several steps toward correcting ourselves, toward defeating our egos, toward defeating the evil inside us.

I beseech Almighty God to bestow His blessings on this nation, our dear youths, our martyrs, our disabled and to direct us to the right path. Peace and God's blessings be with you.

President Khamene'i

LD210956 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0440 GMT 21 Mar 83

[President Khamene'i address to nation on occasion of Persian new year -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate the dear and esteemed imam, also all the selfless combatants, all the vanguards of the revolution, all those families that have selflessly served this country and this revolution's interests, each and every one of our compatriot brothers and sisters, at the turn of the year and the arrival of the Nowruz festival. I hope this fesival, this spring, and this year will be a happy one for you all.

Last year, in my new year message, I wished happiness and well-being to all our dear compatriots. With the grace of God, that wish was fulfilled. From the very first days of Farvardin [first month in Persian year beginning 21 March] our nation's celebrations began. All in all, last year was a year of great victories, a year of liberating thousands of square kilometers of our occupied lands along the borders, the year Khorramshahr was liberated. It is true that during the past year, like the 1 or 2 years previously, like all the years since the revolution, we have endured sadness because of self-sacrifices, martyrdoms, and other such sorrows, but compared with the achievements of this country and this nation, these are minor sorrows. We hope that God Almighty will compensate for these sorrows with his generosity and omniscience, and reward you all, and all those who were martyred, those who gave their lives or suffered disabilities at the battlefronts, those who suffered hardships behind the frontline.

The truth is that for our nation, the real festival was the day when the doomed shadow of the satan was removed from our lives. That day compensated for not having been able to celebrate a real festival for several years. After that day, we achieved many victories, but we still have a long and arduous way to go to reach final victory. Our final victory does not lie in our victory in this war; this is only a part of the great victory for a revolutionary nation.

The final victory for our nation lies in being able to build a 100 percent Islamic society. An Islamic society, according to definition, is one in which there are no disappointments, injustices, or oppressions; where people treat each other with kindness; where men do not feel the exertion and imposition of idols and satans; where men are the true servants of God. The day when the laws of Islam are implemented in this country; when people under the shadow of their subservience to God live in prosperity, awareness, and health; when peace and tranquillity rules over the country, that day will be the day when we live in the shadow of a 100 percent Islamic government. What is important is for that day to exist in our future and in the outlook of our life. Whether you or I will be present on that day is not important. All our efforts are concentrated on reaching that day and the efforts of our enemies -- enemies who feel their interests threatened and ruined by this revolution -- are aimed at preventing that day from ever arriving.

As we manage to get closer to a 100 percent Islamic society, the more the Muslim nations' hopes are raised, the more hopeful become oppressed non-Muslims throughout the world.

As we have made progress toward Islam -- this source of light -- and pushed aside the darkness of satan, dependence, and oppression from our country, we have raised the hopes of millions of people. Nations should come to realize that humanity can become victorious and live on forever. The oppressed and deprived people of the world should accept and believe that the doomed shadow of oppression by superpowers and oppressors will not forever darken the lives of nations. This will only be possible if we continue our determined and faithful progress toward a completely Islamic society and if we are not afraid of giving sacrifices. Our lives, wealth, and our dear ones should be put at the service of objectives which belong to all men and not to one person or a small mind, objectives which belong to the world. We are (?determined) to follow this path, God willing.

On the day when Islam in its entirety is implemented in this country, poverty, disappointments, illiteracy, discrimination, bullying, and selfishness will be eliminated. Even if they should exist, they would be lost among the waves of light, good intentions, and kindness from every side. We don't have far to go to reach that day. Those who regard the achievements of man and the victory of a nation as dreams are mistaken. The victories we have achieved -- having brought America to its knees, having expelled the satan, having founded the Islamic and Koranic government -- even these victories were beyond belief for other nations and even for our own nation. We succeeded in fulfilling the unimaginable; all other unbelievable feats also can be achieved.

Greetings to you dear ones walking this path undetered. Greetings to you combatants. Greetings to you, combatants in the field of productivity and scenes of production, activity and creativity in industry and agriculture. Greetings to you, workers and farmers, to you faithful and hezbollahi young people. Greetings to you, selfless and generous men and women, and to all the selfless people of the Islamic country of Iran.

Peace and God's benediction be upon you all.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD211157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0504 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani address to nation on occasion of Persian new year -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God and Allah's salutation be upon His prophet. With the succor of God and under the leadership of the imam of the nation, we have come through a very successful and fruitful year. We reached many of our goals last year and we hope that the coming year will also be a blessed year to this heroic, militant, and struggling nation. We hope this year will bring many successes.

Last year, we achieved some remarkable successes in various fields. From the military point of view, this time last year the invading enemy was at the gates of the heroic city of Dezful, Ahvaz, and several other cities and vast regions of our homeland were occupied. From the Fath al-Mobin operations, which began during the early days of last year, to the recent Wal Fajr operations, we proudly witnessed the epoch-making acts of our brave fighters of the Armed Forces, the Guards Corps, and other volunteers. Today, in many regions, the invading enemy has been kicked to the other side of the borders and we have forced it to go on the defensive. The defensive ability of the enemy will also be broken soon, God willing.

There have been very remarkable successes in the fight against counterrevolution. In addition to the restoration of security throughout the country and the almost total eradication of terrorism, the counterrevolutionaries have lost all their appeal -- those who were once chanting slogans against imperialism and colonialism have shown their true faces; it has become clear to everyone that they are, in fact, servants of imperialism. They have degraded themselves to the point of becoming spies for the Iraqi Aflaqite Ba'th Party, which itself is a servant and spy of someone else. But, thanks be to God, their intellectual and spiritual roots have been destroyed in our society.

Our situation in the economic field, thanks be to God, has greatly improved, with a great many factories having had relatively good success over the past year. As for productivity, it has surpassed the targets in many factories, with our managers and technicians having been able to overcome many of the problems through their own efforts. As a result, today, we are enjoying the operations of thousands of active workshops and factories in our country.

Our foreign currency situation is highly satisfactory as compared to the situation in the previous year. The strength of our country's foreign exchange standing, following a rather chaotic situation which we encountered toward the end of the previous year, is such that the Islamic Republic's planners have assured us of their ability to plan for many years ahead. With regard to our oil market, we have managed to secure it as we had desired, according to our country's requirements.

As for the Majlis, during the past year, it has seen an active period with its deputies discharging their supervisory, advisory, and consultative duties toward the country's executive authorities, by approving the necessary bills. During the past year, we have also succeeded in restoring the confidence of a certain class of our people which was lost due to revolutionary conditions. The situation has now reached a point wherein the people's deposits in banks and their activities in the economic sector show an impressive change, so much so that we in the Majis were able to pass an unparalleled budget during the last days of the past year with peace of mind.

Also, during the past year, the universities, which had been closed temporarily due to the revolutionary conditions in order to purge them of undesirable elements and pave the way for learning by our youth, were reopened. We do hope that this process will further proceed with speed toward its completion. Obviously, we are not taking credit for all these successes. These successes were possible mostly because of our people's alertness and participation, complete support, and because of God's blessings. This, however, is only the beginning because we entertain considerable hopes for the coming year.

To begin with, we hope to be able to maintain and step up the present trend during the comming year and to attain the desired improvement as much as possible. Secondly, we hope to have God's blessing so as to normalize the situation during the coming year so that it will be a year when we can restore public confidence and the satisfaction of all the classes of people prepared to live in this country honorably and satisfied with their own legitimate rights; so that all those who may have had the impression that there is no future for them in this country, for whatever reason, may become hopeful of their future and, consequently, make collective efforts to build an exemplary Islamic country.

We also hope to be able to end this prolonged and destructive war victoriously and in favor of the deprived people, the oppressed people of the region and the world. At this point, we pray to and beseech God to favor us with his blessing and to rid the region of the insidious presence of the Alfaqite Ba'th Party, as well as the Saddamists, so that the Iraqi nation too may be able to breathe in a free atmosphere and move forward alongside the Iranian nation on this sacred Islamic path.

An issue which caused pain to a great many of our countrymen over the past year, an issue which is operative, is the issue of high prices the high price of consumer goods, the issue of high inflation. We hope to be able to control this harmful inflation with the cooperation of all the people, the efforts of producers and planners, thus rescuing the deprived class of the society from the present high cost of living through making available to the people more facilities and, consequently, taking steps to enable the people to enjoy this country's blessing in accordance with their efforts.

Another wish we entertain, and for the realization of which we indeed strive, is to activate during the coming year the effective forces in our society and country so that they work and endeavour toward rebuilding their country and serving their people; there is no doubt that this could be fruitful for themselves and the entire people.

Particularly, I expect that in the light of the order and stability which will be established in our society in the light of despondency by the counterrevolution, and the clarification of the strengthening of the standing of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Government, those who, for whatever reason, had decided against living in this country until now, but who are interested in their country, their people, and their families and are now living abroad, may be given the chance to return to their country and live alongside the people, the deprived classes of the society, and to cooperate with us in building Islamic Iran, or at least, to live comfortably and contented.

What pains me and my friends is that because of the situation imposed upon us, some of our youthful forces who were misled are now in prison. We are not happy with this situation. We are truly sad about this, but it is something they brought upon themselves. We hope that once terrorism and counterrevolution are uprooted we may ask the imam of the nation to grant a general amnesty to all sinners, who may live with us in this country, so that we may witness the emptying of prisons of all people who may be able to live an active and honorable life.

In conclusion, we again express our gratitude to all combatants and those who lost their health in fighting for justice and against oppression, those who have pinned the medal of self-sacrificing revolutionaries on their valiant chests. We greet their honorable and gentle families for these successes. We also wish further success and health for the imam of the nation, the pivot of the Islamic movement, this light of the deprived eyes and strength of the world oppressed hearts. God bless you all.

Supreme Court President

LD211053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0520 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Supreme Court President Musavi-Ardabili address to nation on occasion of Persian new year -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Almighty God, with Thy boundless grace and mercy, we have put 4 eventful years behind us. Four years, every minute of which contained conspiracies, aggression, threats, selflessness, and martyrdoms. Each event was evidence of the authenticity of our dear Islamic Revolution. From among all those dangers, we were saved by Thy grace, mercy and blessings. Now, with a store of experience and steadfastness, and with strength and stability, we face the dawn of the fifth spring of freedom.

Mighty God, all this was made possible because of Your grace and kindness, and we give thanks for Thy kindness, mercy, and blessings. Mighty God, with all our hearts, we beseech you to help us compensate for our past mistakes and shortcomings. Help us to solve our problems.

Mighty God, assist us in our efforts to follow our revolution, to implement the law of Islamic justice, to uproot oppression and injustice, to support the oppressed, and to oppose the oppressors and world imperialism. Help our combatants to succeed on the warfronts and make us steadfast in following the path of prophets.

Oh God, You are aware that the glorious Islamic Revolution of Iran, with all its achievements, owes all it has to the presence of the great leader of the revolution, apart from Thy generosity and blessings. His invaluable leadership during all this time helped this revolution to move ahead and his guidance has saved the revolution. Mighty God, protect the presence of this esteemed leader and prolong his shadow.

In my message, I would like to send my warmest greetings and compliments to the blessed souls of our martyrs, to the disabled, the families of martyrs, members of all revolutionary institutions who work with sincerity, those who work behind the frontline, all the revoltutionary, champion people who are present on the scenes.

Finally, at the end of my message, to raise a point in connection with the judicial branch, I want to point out that the judicial branch had three main problems. It was non-Islamic, personal contacts ruled over it, and it was unhealthy. At the end of the outgoing year, I can bring good tidings to our dear compatriots. From the beginning of this year, as a result of the ceaseless round-the-clock efforts to our dear brothers, we have come to a stage where -- thank God -- not even one non-Islamic sentence will be passed anywhere in Iran. All sentences will be Islamic, all the judiciary system is Islamic, (?unless) there is a mistake or oversight in some cases.

Regarding personal contacts, contacts were eliminated and now there are no personal contacts in the judicial branch. In this near year, we will try to eliminate any unhealthy climate. Files still pending will be attended to so that we might be able to eliminate all waiting in the Justice Ministry.

Hoping for the blessings of God. Peace and God's benedictions be upon you all.

Prime Minister Musavi

LD2113Z8 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0526 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Prime Minister Musavi address to nation on occasion of Persian new year -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Arabic passage indistinct] Greetings and felicitations to the imam of the nations leader of the revolution, leader of the world oppressed, and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran; greetings and felicitations to our dear combatants and selfless forces, families of martyrs, and families whose dear and noble sons are either missing or in captivity; and greetings and felicitations to our great nation. I would like to congratulate our dear imam, our nation, and our dear combatants on the occasion of the new year and sincerely hope that the new year will be a great year for victory -- the final victory -- and great achievements -- a year to witness continued consolidation of our Islamic republic regime as an effective counter to the world oppressor.

The year just past was a year of many victories. It marked the transition of Khoninshahr to Khorramshahr. It marked Fath al-Mobin. It was a year in which our combatant forces with their deep-routed solidarity were able to deal decisive blows to Saddam's regime. These blows were inflicted when Saddam's regime was receiving maximum assistance.

The past year also marked and witnessed vital victories both in the internal and external scenes. At home, massive national participation in the election for the Council of Experts perhaps can be considered as the best example of that vital victory. The blows suffered by the mercenaries of the superpowers rank among our other victories. Rooting out the chieftains and tribalism is among the victories achieved last year. This was achieved through the coordinated and comprehensive efforts of our law enforcement authorities and committed forces, helped by the vigilance shown by all our people.

On the international scene it is sufficient to look at our country's political might and the government's activities. These victories were achieved mainly as a result of the determination shown by our combative forces at the fronts. The change in the venue of the nonaligned summit from Baghdad to New Delhi and triumphs achieved in the New Delhi conference are among the victories. We also should add to the list expansion of our ties with Third World countries, which are continuing to grow. This can be considered as growing esteem for our regime from most other countries. We should realize that our regime is considered a mouthpiece expressing aspirations of the world's oppressed. Our voice today is recognized by the world as an expressive one.

Also, in the economic field, no doubt, our great nation has witnessed important developments. Our current foreign exchange reserves, perhaps, can be considered as unprecedented during the entire period of the revolution. Our factories have now resumed production after a recession which was the result of changes, special circumstances, and conditions. We view our country's resumed economic activities as decisive.

Above all, last year was an important year in which our nation returned to the Islamic principles. It was a year in which Islamic values were defended and supported more than ever before in our society. These principles were promoted and our society more than ever before achieved its unity and solidarity by absorbing those Islamic principles.

We enter 1362 at the time when the Majlis and the Council of Guardians, through their great and extensive endeavors, ratified the government budget bill, thus providing the government with the necessary means to serve our dear nation and all the oppressed people of the world. We saw during the last few days of the past year how the Majlis worked night and day to complete the task and how the Council of Guardians made every effort to ratify the bill, an important development which, no doubt, will enable the government to carry on with its task in the new year.

God willing, we will continue to consider the new year as a year of final victory and happiness for our nation, a year for activity and plenty. This victory also will be shared by all the world's oppressed people for whom our revolution is the only source of hope and aspiration. No doubt, your servant government will spare no effort to achieve victory in this war, just as it will make every effort to serve our society's oppressed. The servant government of our great nation, adhering to Islam, openness, and the slogans that have been chanted by you throughout the revolution, will continue to stride forward to realize those slogans and to implement Islamic principles in our society. In achieving those ends, no doubt the government is in need of the assistance of our great nation and all its foundations and institutions.

When, in 1362, our regime has been completely consolidated and, considering that we have had great victories in 1361, I think the government will devote most of its attention to defending the society's oppressed. This task will be implemented with the assistance of all other foundations. This will be done because our oppressed people shouldered the heaviest portion of the revolution. They gave the largest portion of martyrs at the fronts. They are the noble defenders of the revolution. They are the kind of people, as our dear imam has said, to whom we all are indebted. It is only natural that your servant government can only feel worthy of serving the regime -- the regime of the Islamic Republic -- when it can serve that huge section of our society. No doubt the government will stride in this direction.

I declare 1631 as the year for defense of the oppressed. No doubt, all the government's organs, all my colleagues at all levels, must pay attention to this task. Be assured that if everyone -- every civil servant in every room, behind every desk -- takes as his tasks, within the framework of the Islamic principles and the imam of the nation's leadership, to think of society's deprived, to think of rooting out poverty from our society, then we will be able to take effective steps toward achieving our aspirations.

I am sure that our great nation realizes the extent of destruction and dependence that we have inherited from the previous regime. As the imam of the nation stated on his return to the country, it would require 20 years to make up for the destruction left behind by the previous regime. But we think that, as a result of you dear people being present on the scene and the imam of the nation's leadership, we will be able to reduce the time required. No doubt, 1362 can become an opportunity to move much faster toward that end and -- through the cooperation of all the country's organs and foundations, especially the Majlis and Council of Guardians -- to make accelerated stride and firmer steps.

May God Almighty bless all the servants of our dear nation with success and honor and purify their intention in the service of God and grant your servants greater and accelerated strides in their service of our dear nation.

Peace be upon you.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,256

LD221835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,256 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. After a salute to our heroic and ever vigilant combatants on the fronts of the imposed war who, with determination and steadfastness and hearts longing for martyrdom and self-sacrifice are safeguarding the vast borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we would like to inform our dear compatriots of some of the events during the past 24 hours.

On the western fronts, an exchange of light and heavy weapons fire continued between Islam's combatants and the Iraqi forces. As a result of shell hits scored by our own forces, one enemy 109-mm rifle, one vehicle, and a number of trenches were destroyed. Thanks to fire opened by an artillery unit of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic on the Saddamists' positions and equipment in the Panjwin and (Biyarah) Garrison operational zones, the Ba'thist enemy's movements and traffic were halted, a number of enemy bunkers were demolished, and a number of troops were killed.

The intrepid personnel of the Islamic army opened fire on the positions of the Saddamist mercenaries on the Khorramshahr and Abadan fronts, silencing enemy fire and halting enemy movments and regrouping. They also destroyed eight foxholes and trenches of the Iraq forces and killed or wounded a number of their servicemen.

An exchange of fire continued between Islam's combatants, made up of our Gendarmerie, police, and military fighters and the Saddamists on the opposite side of the Arvand Rud, being most intense in the (Halamcheh), (Pol-e Now), and (Harqeh) operational zones, as a result of which the enemy suffered losses.

The air raids launched by Saddam's minions against the airspace of our country's border cities were promptly repulsed thanks to the meticulous tactical steps taken by the brave and selfless pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the powerful fire opened by the vigilant personnel of the antiaircraft units. The encroaching enemy aircraft fled from the scene.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

NVOI COMMENTARY CRITICIZES LACK OF FREEDOM

TA102053 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Inquisition Is Contrary to Spirit of Revolution and Constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Principle 23 of the Constitution declares that inquisition is forbidden and that no one may be assaulted or called to account simply for having a certain view.

With deep regret, it must be confessed that the political freedoms of the people and of the sincere and committed but dissenting revolutionary forces have always been assaulted and attacked. And in contrast, these freedoms have been gained more by the monopolists, superficials, the narrowminded, the multifarious enemies of the revolution, and even counterrevolutionary elements who have changed color.

The fact that the offices of dissenting revolutionary parties and organizations are occupied by suspicious and unauthorized elements, and probably with the implied approval of some of the authorities; the fact that all newspapers and publications defending the revolution but not affiliated with the government currently are banned; the fact that contrary to the Constitution's principles the free political activity of dissenters defending the revolution has been completely crushed; and the fact that many of our homeland's prominent revolutionary figures are in detention without any legal grounds are bitter proof that the issue of political freedoms stipulated in the Constitution not only has been consigned to oblivion in our revolutionary homeland, but has been and is being violated by the rightist and superficial wing and by elements affiliated with certain CIA-afflicted organizations such as the hojjatiyeh.

This situation can please only the foes of the Iranian Revolution whose efforts are aimed at portraying an ugly face for the Islamic Republic of Iran in world public opinion.

Those who on the basis of their monopolist and superficial ideas are emptying the revolution of one of its main contents, namely freedom, are wittingly or unwittingly pouring grist into the mill of the revolution's enemies.

For all revolutionary forces loyal to the Islamic Republic or Iran, along with independence and social justice, freedom is one of the basic slogans of our revolution which unfortunately is being violated by certain identified elements. Without doubt, freedom is inseparable from independence and social justice and violation of one is tantamount to the destruction of the other. Therefore, that freedom which the Constitution envisaged for all people, for all revolutionary forces, whether religious or nonreligious, must be granted to the people in practice. And by this means, we must aid in consolidating independence and establishing social justice.

The rule of law must be established in our homeland. All parties, organizations, and groups defending the revolution, regardless of difference in religious, ideological, and political views, should be allowed to operate in accordance with the Constitution. Guaranteeing the political activities of the forces defending the revolution is the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to our people and to the history of our homeland.

Only by providing freedom can all the true revolutionary forces be attracted to promote the lofty aims of the revolution and only by respecting the freedom of all the forces defending the revolution can one of the basic slogans of the revolution, namely independence, freedom, and social justice, be translated from word into deed.

The government must take firm and principled steps to fulfill the principles of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to maintain the freedoms stipulated in this law for all defenders of the revolution irrespective of their political views and ideologies.

AFGHAN MUSLIM LEADER ADDRESSES REFUGEES

LD202057 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Mashhad, March 20 IRNA -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Mohammad Akbari in charge of the combatant ulema society of Afghanistan urged Afghan refugees and ulema not to remain indifferent towards the current developments in Afghanistan and asked them to step up efforts for finding a realistic solution to the Afghan issue by overcoming their inner sentiments.

The Afghan scholar who was addressing a large group of Afghan refugees and combatant ulema here Saturday, further urged the Afghan ulema to be more attentive to the grave responsibility they shouldered towards the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan. He also insisted that the Afghan ulema should vigilantly aid the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries to continue their fight against the Soviet occupiers and the present imposed regime of Afghanistan.

REPORTAGE ON AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN OPERATIONS

MIG, Tanks Hit

GF111742 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Zahedan, March 11, IRNA -- A Soviet MIG was shot down by the anti-aircraft fire of the Afghan mujahideen last week in the Province of Herat, and its pilot was killed. Informed sources added that during the same week Afghan mujahideen in a guerrilla attack on the concentration site of the joint Soviet and Afghan Government forces in the Province of Farah, destroyed two tanks, one vehicle and killed a number of Soviet occupiers. The Soviet forces in retaliation arrested 26 non-military men and took them to an unknown destination.

Military Posts Attacked

GF171606 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Mashhad, March 17, IRNA -- The Afghan mujahidin took captive 16 officers and soldiers of the Afghan Government forces along with 21 pieces of armaments. The attack was launched on 8th and 13th of March on two military posts in the governorate of Ghurian and on the city centre of Herat.